5/14/77

Dear Karen,

We are both proud of your added job responsibilities and your political activism!

But your parents are correct on the temper of Homestead, as you indicate realizing.

I am familiar with Homestead corruption from my days as a Senate investigator. I no longer recall the details but this political system goes way back.

The most terrible violence was protected. The reason is that it served the interest of the mill-owners, who were responsible for it. They had to have political control to be able to resist the campaigns for better pay and working conditions.

We hope your side wins, and that if it does it can resist what has happened before, getting moved in on.

Again the clippings are valuable, giving me what I did not have. Thanks.

I have not been able to get to work on the King book. But this is not because I do not have the list of allegations. It is because of other work and because with the break in the weather it is essential for me to get some exercise.

I've done work around the place and will get to more in a short while. When I've been in Washington I've walked as far as from Key Bridge to the National Press Bldg., this the day of Lane's press conference. Yesterday also I walked enough to tire myself when I was there. Several hours of it.

On getting the FBI's King records: The rate of delivery is not up to three "sections" a week. To now this has been restricted to the HQ file. Resistance against going to the Field Offices has been strong and in court, where the judge did not really lean on them. However, I believe the pressures I have kept on them have forced them to back off on this. I am getting access to those, probably the more important records. Yesterday Jim and I conferred on this with the FBI agent in charge of this particular FOIA project - far and away the best of those I've dealy with. He has a fine, subtle sense of humor, so delicate that I missed the first showing of it. I've also been winning my private fights over their obliterations. In this weeks sections they have gone over the maskings and written some back in. A section is an arvitrary file. It is in headquarters, where at a certain point one section is ended and another begins. They range up to about 300 pages. I now have 60. The HQ volume in this one file is 89 sections - not including the personal stuff on King. That is a "100" file, or "subversive."

I'm surprised you have had no word of a Lane appearance at least on Cigna. He is promoting his book. It is pretty terrible, although cleverly and effectively commercial. To the uninformed quite readable. Unless you collect rogues' gallery material it is not worth your time. There is not a single thing in it that is either new or significant and basically it is disinformation.

One for the fledgling Portia: The Baltimore Sun found a local and exceptionally qualified gun expert, one that CBS had used in its "re-enactment." Based on what he said they did two Sunday stories I have not yet seen. In the course of it they learned of my spectro suit from the Groden-Modell ~~trouble~~ trifle. So they asked the FBI for the same spectro only stuff under FOIA and got nothing. Being a wealthy outfit the Sun, with its conservative back up, engaged prestigeous counsel to obtain the results. Counsel got in touch with the FBI. The FBI reported it had shown me the "tapes." (Relates to part of what I got ~~under~~ on NAAs only.) So the reporter on the story finally phoned me yesterday. A wealthy, powerful paper with radio and TV properties of great value also, the most powerful single force in the state, allows itself to be referred to me, and then only in the sense of I had seen it so they should ask me - and accepts it! Prestigeous counsel? I told the reporter he can copy all I have, that I do not accept a simple viewing, and if the book is up enough the papers can join in my suit. Thanks to you all and best,